

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.3% (380) reside in the Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (72) of Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 71.3% of admissions from the Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District were male and 28.7% were female.
- Over 60.0% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 89.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 1.3% were black non-Latino, 7.4% were Latino, and 2.1% were other racial categories.
- 63.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.4% were married, and 15.8% reported not to be married now.
- 33.2% of admissions had less than high school education, 43.2% completed high school, and 23.7% had more than high school education.
- 44.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 7.9% of those admitted were homeless.
- 9.7% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	287	257	69	83	54	57	43
FY '96	253	216	77	57	55	52	34
FY '97	307	259	89	69	41	75	61
FY '98	326	277	95	78	53	90	63
FY '99	365	298	116	85	48	112	86
FY '00	389	314	119	94	39	149	130
FY '01	380	281	109	88	38	140	109

- Since FY 1995, residents of Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District reported a decrease in crack use, but a steady increase in heroin use. Crack use decreased by 29%, while heroin use increased by 145%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting cocaine use remained steady, while alcohol use increased by 9%, and marijuana use by 57%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirty-ninth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	47.6 %	33.2%	9.0%	2.6%	1.1%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol and marijuana was higher within your District.